



CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

30 January 2017

CHANGE COUNCIL UPDATE

Prepared by Loren Nergaard

1. Take over day: take over day was on Friday the 18th of November and it was a great success over 250 young people in Sunderland took part and the feedback was so positive everyone enjoyed it and found it a great experience. Several members of the change council members job shadowed people within children's services and the college.

- Loren – Job Shadowing Debra Patterson and Cllr Farthing
- Kieran – Job shadowing Jane Wheeler, P & E Lead
- Blaine – Job shadowing Martin Birch, Interim Head of LAC
- Saul – Job shadowing Faculty director
- Luke – Job shadowing Faculty Director
- Billy – Job shadowing Alex Hopkins, DCS

2. Celebration/Awards Evening: we had our LAC awards evening and celebration event on the 16th of December which change council organized. It was a huge success there was over 200 young people ranging from 0-21 there was plenty of activities and there were lots of staff to help out. We had 300 Teddy Bears donated by 'Build a bear' and we got donated amazing gifts from 'hope springs' which we were really grateful for. All of the young people there thoroughly enjoyed it and change council won an award which we were very happy about. Over all it was an amazing night and we have also had great feedback.

Feedback:

Thank you for letting me be involved. I had a fantastic night and the kids were great! The glitter tattoos went down a storm and the evening was such fun. The team putting it together did an amazing job – (Social Worker)

I meant to say before I left the party that you did an absolutely amazing job in organising the whole thing. All of the carers and kids that I talked to had a fantastic time (and my carers aren't afraid to complain about anything, so you can take that as high praise indeed!). And as staff we were having a ball (Fostering Officer)

Just wanted to say a big thank you to you and all involved in the Christmas Party.....it was fabulous! The girls really enjoyed it (Foster Carer)

I thought it was well organised, with lots to do, Santa was great as were the gifts and the awards were moving (Foster Carer)

Very good event tonight and think the young people were very much the centre of attention (Councillor)

I thought it was well organised, lots to do for all ages and that the awards were very moving (Foster Carer)

I thought it was amazing, and something that has been needed for a long time. Both of the children really enjoyed it and Millie was delighted with her award. The children enjoyed the games which were really good, and the presents from Santa were excellent. I hope that the party can be a regular occurrence, although I do appreciate it was expensive, and that it may not be possible every year. (Foster Carer)

3. **IRO'S:** Gavin and Kim have attended some of our change council meetings to ask if the group knew what an IRO is and did we know who ours was? The majority of the group didn't, some of the older ones did but we realized that more people would know who their IRO is if there was a leaflet, however the group decided against it. We did come up with the idea of having a board with individual little photos of the IRO's with their name underneath and it would be displayed in the next step building and in the children's homes on top of that they would send you a letter from your IRO including the information about who they are and what they are going to help/make a difference to the young person and the letter would also include their contact details. With this letter and visits from your IRO every young person should know who their IRO is and what they are for.
4. **Complaints and compliments leaflet:** we reviewed the complaints and compliments leaflet and decided they are not very young people friendly and most of the group had not even seen them so we are in the process of re designing them. You can also make a complaint through MOMO but we are still in the process of re vamping it to make it easier to understand and more young people friendly.
5. **Two Groups:** We have decided to split the group to be more focused, from February we will have a 15 and under group focusing on LAC issues and a 16+ group which will focus on leaving care issues. Some of the work plan will involve both groups.